

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-12 and 14-17 are pending in the present application. Claim 13 has been cancelled, and claims 16-17 are newly added. Support is provided for newly added claims 16-17 in the originally filed specification at, for example, page 3, lines 16-23. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 5, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hager et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,384,614). Claims 2-3 and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hager in view of Cook et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,791,344). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hager in view of Cohen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,667,149). Claims 6-8 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hager in view of LeCroy (U.S. Patent No. 4,423,373). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hager in view of Hembree et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,218,848).

Claim 13 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 15 was allowed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include certain limitations of claim 13, and claim 13 has been cancelled. Claim 15 has also been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 15 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-10 and 14 are dependent upon allowable claim 1, either directly or indirectly. Thus, claims 2-10 and 14 are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 11 and 16 include features neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record. For example, claim 11 recites steps of "deriving an operational signal path resistance . . . including (a) identifying a constant portion of each of the path resistances and a variable portion of each of the path resistances, and (b) comparing the variable portion of each of the path resistances with one another . . ." and "compensating for said voltage drop in correspondence to said derived operational signal path resistance." Claim 16 recites steps of "dividing the path resistance by a number of the plurality of probes used to provide the conductive contact" and "compensating for a voltage drop of a signal configured to pass through the probe apparatus using the divided path resistance." These

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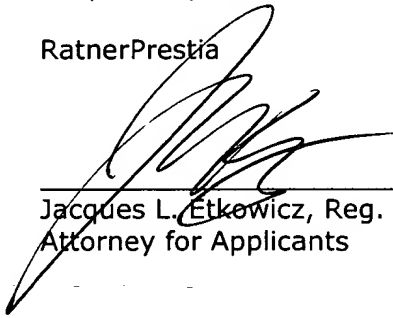
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features are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, and as such, Applicants' respectfully submit that claims 11 and 16 (as well as dependent claim 17 which depends from claim 16) are in condition for allowance.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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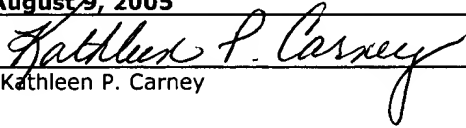
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August 9, 2005



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